

OPC Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • MARCH 2001

He Owes His Life to Survival Training

Yannis Behrakis, a photojournalist who won an OPC award last year, escaped along with Reuters cameraman Mark Chisholm from an ambush last May in Sierra Leone that killed Reuters correspondent Kurt Schork and APTN cameraman Miguel Gil Moreno. In an interview with TVnewsweb.com Behrakis credited a Reuters-organized hostile environment course for his survival. Here are excerpts from his remarkable story.

"I saw the guys. I saw them jump from the bush on the left and start shooting. I was sitting between two soldiers in the back. As we know, Kurt (who was driving) was killed almost instantly and a soldier sitting on the bonnet was killed and the soldier on my right was killed. So I was blocked in the car. I didn't want to go out on the left side. The soldier on my left freaked out. He threw his gun away and jumped over me and over the dead guy and was trying to get out of the window."

"So, I was blocked in the car for maybe a minute, which was terrifying. I couldn't do anything. Then Mark got out of the car, then me, maybe ten seconds after, and then we lost each other."

"After that I spent more than three hours hiding and crawling in the jungle."

"First, I got some mud and rotten leaves—it was very wet and humid—and I put it all over my t-shirt, face and hands. The jungle was very thick but everything was brown and green. And I had a white t-shirt and white skin."

"I didn't move. I hid and stayed very close to the ground. There was a lot of shooting for a long time—more than 40 minutes, all in all. And there were people moving around me—five metres away from me. I didn't know who they were."

"Then, very slowly, I began to move through the bushes, taking care not to move anything to show where I was. I was moving slowly, trying not to lose my orientation. That's one of the scariest things about the jungle."

"The other terrible thing was when the (government) soldiers, maybe half an hour, 40 minutes later came back from where they were, to see what was happening with the shooting they had heard. The usual way these soldiers operate is to



MARK CHISHOLM

Yannis Behrakis

move along the main road, shooting everything left and right of the road—into the jungle, without knowing who is there or what is happening."

"When they came back I was not more than 50 metres from the road. They
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China Hands Reunion

By Sonya K. Fry

Journalists who have served together in a particular location share a special bond of memories, hardships and friends. The OPC has sponsored several reunions in recent years, most notably a reunion of journalists who covered the Korean War and foreign correspondents who served in Moscow in the Communists years.

On March 15 the OPC together with the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office here in New York City are planning a splendid party for China Hands, young and old, who have served as correspondents anywhere in Chinese-speaking Asia. The reunion will take place at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street, from 6:00 to 9:00pm. The cost for the reception is \$35 payable at the door. There will be a full

open bar, a dim sum station, and the added treat of Peking Duck.

It will be a chance for people to reconnect, network and generally have a good time. In addition, Cathay Pacific Airways has donated two round-trip Business Class tickets from any U.S. gateway to Hong Kong so there will be a lucky prize winner. To round out the package the Hong Kong Tourist Association will donate a sightseeing tour of Hong Kong.

Although invitations have already been sent we may have missed someone. If you have served in Chinese Asia, or know someone who has served and would like to be invited, please notify the OPC office (212) 626-9220 and we will issue an invitation pronto.

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Most Countries Boast Freedom But It's Not Always Easy to Find

By John Langone

Freedom of the Press Committee

While the majority of the countries in the world claim they have a democratic form of government, where press freedom is a given, alarming instances of the killing, harassment and intimidation of journalists continue to come to light. And as it has done for some sixty years, the Overseas Press Club of America, through its Freedom of the Press Committee, continued to protest strongly all attempts—some horrendous, others

bordering on the ridiculous—aimed at stifling the “crime” of freedom of expression.

On the more shocking end of the scale of assaults, the Committee expressed its alarm and concern in January over the murder in Paraguay of Salvador Medina, a reporter and chairman of the board of directors of radio station Nemy in Capibary. Shot by unidentified assassins while riding his motorcycle, Medina had been receiving death threats for broadcasts the government apparently felt were too critical. As in other similar cases, the Committee protested directly to the head of state, in this instance to President Luis Gonzalez Macchi, urging him to investigate fully the crime and to show some expression of concern to the nation's citizens.

In another January protest, the Committee expressed indignation over a physical assault on a Russian journalist. In a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin—who has stated publicly that unrestricted press freedom is essential to his country's democratic ideals—the Committee voiced its deep concern over the attack on Oleg Luriye, an investigative reporter for the newspaper *Novaia Gazeta* who was beaten by five assailants who also locked his wife in the couple's car. “Were it not for Mr.

Luriye's articles detailing suspected corruption at the highest levels of the Kremlin (involving your predecessor, Mr. Yeltsin),” the Committee wrote, “we would not suspect that this beating was part of a government effort to intimidate journalists.”

In Egypt, after President Hosny Mubarak's overwhelming victory, it was hoped that more freedom of expression would have been encouraged. Here, the Committee focused on yet another in a long series of intimidating measures leveled against journalists who attempt to do their jobs in a country with a draconian press law. In the most recent case, two reporters covering legislative elections were assaulted and injured in a Cairo district while police officers stood by and failed to intervene. On the same day, an Amnesty International delegate was attacked in front of a polling station by police who confiscated his camera. Since the beginning of these elections, the Committee pointed out in its protest, seven journalists in all have met with such resistance, a record which, when added to the dozen or so others who have been investigated or tried for libel and other publications' offenses over the past year, could not be allowed to stand without comment from the OPC.

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**HOLD
THE DATE**
Thursday, May 3, 2001
**Observance of
World Press Freedom Day
(10th Anniversary)**

- Panel of authorities
- All attending will receive copy of new 274-page World Press Freedom Committee directory of insult laws in 98 countries

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OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202
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Overseas Press Club
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40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

BEHRAKIS

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started shooting. The bullets were flying next to me, hitting the floor in front of me. I could feel mud flying from the bullets that were hitting the ground. I was absolutely flat on the ground. I was trying to find something to hide behind but there was nothing. That was the second very scary moment. I was quite sure one of these bullets was going to hit me."

"There were things crawling around, like caterpillars—huge caterpillars—and I was thinking maybe there's snakes and stuff like that. So I was very careful with my every move. But I was very focused. I thought back to one day during the hostile environment course. We were walking through the forest in England and it was quite thick—you know, like English jungle! One of the guys walking in front of us stepped on a tripwire and there was an explosion and I remember the Centurion guys warning us that these types of areas can be littered with anti-personnel mines, tripwires, booby traps and stuff like that."

"I thought maybe this place has booby traps, tripwires and stuff like that, too, so I started crawling slowly and carefully through the most difficult paths in the jungle because these tripwires are placed where a person can walk."

"The fact that I was thinking of all these things made me feel strong. It made me feel I knew what I was doing. It was very important for my morale. And in these sorts of cases morale is very important. I was pumped up with tons of adrenalin and my senses were on red alert. I became a soldier, basically. All the time I was thinking, I mustn't make any mistakes because one small mistake is going to mean my life."

"Once again, I recalled moving through that English jungle. The instructors asked us at some point to identify things to remember our way and we only managed to identify five out of 20 things."

"So, this time, when I started moving to the right, towards the road, I placed small markers every 10 metres or so, in case I needed to go back."

"When I did get on to the road I saw I was about 300 metres away from the destroyed cars. So, in three hours, I had only moved 300 metres!"

"Out of 12 people in total only me and Mark survived. There were some declared missing but missing in those areas means dead."

Toasts to a Lunch

The OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon in late January inspired these comments from some Scholarship winners themselves and attendees:

DREW MAGRATTEN: "Just wanted to thank you for taking the time to put together such an action-packed day. I really got a lot out of it. It's not often we get recognized for our potential in this business."

INDRANI SEN: "It was clear that a great deal of thought had gone into the lunch, as well as the visits to *Business Week* and The Associated Press. I think everyone found the whole day very enjoyable and useful."

CARA FITZPATRICK: "I wanted to thank you again for...the scholarship. I thought everything went really smoothly and I realize it was due to a lot of effort on your part."

LAUREN WEBER: "The luncheon and the tours were illuminating and I especially appreciated the opportunity to network with people in the field."

CLAUDIA CARLIN: "What a wonderful day...a day of learning and celebration. A day too when the tantalizing world of professional journalism was being offered to us on a 'silver platter.' Please thank the judges responsible for putting us in that enviable position."

LINGLING WEI: "I deeply cherish the honor, which indeed gives me great confidence in pursuing a journalistic career in this great press country."

BILL COLLINS—FORD MOTOR COMPANY: "Congratulations on hosting a luncheon with a mission. Training and supporting the next generation of great journalists is a cause we believe in."

Digital Video Conference

Pew Fellowships in International Journalism and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism will hold a two-day conference May 4 and 5 on "A New Look at World: Digital Video and International News" to be held on the Columbia campus in New York. The conference will "examine new multimedia technologies that are transforming markets, newsrooms, and the way journalists report and disseminate international news."

Panelists and participants include Tom Bettag, Executive Producer ABC

News "Nightline"; David Fanning, Senior Executive Producer WGBH-PBS "Frontline"; Tom Kennedy, Director of Photography, *Washington Post/Newsweek Interactive*; Parisa Khosravi, CNN Senior Vice President, Managing Editor International News-gathering; Michael Moran, Senior Producer MSNBC; David Turnley, International Executive Producer Corbis Documentaries, and David Underhill, Vice President for Intergroup Development Tribune Co. For information call the Pew Fellowships, (202) 663-7761.

A Former OPC President Looks Back at the 60s

Barrett McGurn was OPC president from 1963 to 1965 and has just re-joined the club. He sent along a few OPC stories from another era.

"Mayor Wagner was late for a lunch in his honor, arrived in fact after it, but a few of us gave him a sandwich just the same. To my astonishment he admitted: 'We have always had racial tensions but now there is hatred and I don't know what to do about it.' As OPC president I was invited to see Wagner give Martin Luther King Jr. the gold medal of the City of New York. King never smiled

and I suppose with good reason. It was the eve of his assassination.

"We asked Vietnam's dragon lady, Mme. Nhu, to lunch as a newsmaker. So many signed up that we had to move the venue to the grand ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria. Our guest was so tiny I lifted her onto a barstool so that she could be seen. The uplifting scene filled the full front page of the *Daily News* next day! (Within hours there were two more assassinations—the guest's husband and brother-in-law.)

Most Countries Boast Freedom But It's Not Always Easy to Find

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Not all the Committee's protests were against the physical abuse of reporters, however. Journalists were also accused of a wide range of "offenses" from inappropriate use of the Internet to insulting and defaming governments to committing treason. Bangladesh drew the Committee's attention when that nation leveled a treason charge against a Bengali-language daily paper for publishing a parody of the Bangladesh national anthem and jailed its director of publications under a special powers act. In Laos, the National Internet Management Committee banned the use of the net for "propagating misleading news stories to create doubt among the public, at home, and abroad." The Committee spoke out against the ban, and against the warnings, fines, expulsions, and prosecutions the government threatened under what the Committee

called a dangerous and ambiguous law.

In Niger, a decade-old border dispute between the West African nation and Benin over Tete Island resulted in the arrest on unspecified charges of the editor and a staff reporter of the independent weekly, *L'Enqueteur*. The journalists had merely commented on the dispute in an article. The Committee chided the Niger government for leveling an accusation that seemed to come from the country's defense minister, Sablu Dady Gao—who told the BBC that the two journalists had insulted the two countries and that they had lied about their respective positions in the dispute.

Even more shocking, however, was what transpired in the Republic of Zimbabwe, a nation where the government's attitude toward critical media is among the most hostile in the world. In what by any standard was an egregious verbal assault, the country's minister of

information, Jonathan Moyo, not only expressed his intention to charge two independent Harare newspapers with criminal defamation for their critical reporting, but he also warned that the government would soon amend the press laws in order to silence the papers, "once and for all." In its protest to President Robert Gabriel Mugabe, the OPC Committee cautioned, "Such ridiculous remarks have no place in a civilized society. Criticism is not criminal. Suppressing it is repressive. We urge you to open your mind to these facts, and do all in your power to reverse the pattern of press repression and intimidation that has become a hallmark of your government."

While not all of the Committee's letters draw responses from the government leaders to whom they are directed, the Committee, in concert with our like-minded colleagues in other press-freedom advocacy organizations, remains committed to continuing its campaign of speaking out against press harassment and to seeking the release of journalists held as political prisoners.

Welcome to Our New Members

Bill Collins

Director,
Public & Business Affairs
Ford Motor Company
associate resident

Lamar Graham

Managing Editor
Parade Magazine
active resident

Adi Ignatius

Editor
Time Asia
active overseas

Barrett McGurn

New York Herald Tribune
(retired)
active non resident reinstated
former OPC President

Randall Poe

Executive Director,
Communications
The Conference Board
associate resident

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Morton Young

Freelance Writer/Editor
associate resident

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

George Bookman, chair
Elinor Griest
Dwight Sargent

National Press Club South Africa Tour

OPC members are invited to take part in a South Africa tour planned by the National Press Club in August. The trip leader is Rachael Bail, a member of both the NPC and OPC. The tour is scheduled to run from August 4 to 15 and will include visits to Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kruger National Park and a tour of Robben Island, where former South African President Nelson Mandela was jailed during apartheid. The price of the tour is \$3,395 per person.

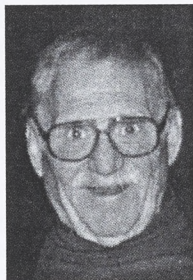
For more information contact Rachael Bail, 7033 Elizabeth Dr., McLean, Va. 22101, (703) 893-8625. Or contact Richard Meyer, VIP Travel Ltd., 1212 Old Stable Rd., McLean, Va. 22102, (703) 356-6884, Fax (703) 356-6782.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia: Leon Daniel reports full recovery from emergency brain surgery performed the day after he attended last November's UPI reunion in New York City. Leon and his partner, **Judith Paterson**, had remained in the Big Apple to attend a play, but he was stricken with blood pressure on his brain before they got to Broadway. "I credit Judith with saving my life by demanding a brain scan as soon as she got me to the emergency room via ambulance," Daniel told -95-, UPI's alumni newsletter. He spent two weeks in Lenox Hill Hospital after a blood buildup was drained. Daniel is a former correspondent and news editor in Asia, Europe and Washington, and Paterson is a journalism professor at the University of Maryland.



Leon Daniel

FORT PEARCE, Florida: OPC member **John Rich**, 83, started his long career as a foreign correspondent shortly after World War II service as a Japanese-language officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He joined INS in Tokyo and shifted to NBC News, covering the Korean and Vietnam Wars, opening of China to foreign correspondents and other stories in Asia and Europe for several decades. At age 73, Rich was the oldest correspondent covering the 1991 Persian Gulf War, reporting for the smallest publication, Westbrook, Maine's weekly *American Journal*, circulation 5,000. He's never lost the itch to travel. To escape New England's winter snow, John and his wife, **D. Lee**, drove from their home in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, to Florida, about 1,500 miles, in a station wagon with a little assist from their son. And they did it in two days!

HARARE, Zimbabwe: Two journalists who had worked for several years in Zimbabwe were ordered to leave the country in February. The Foreign Correspondents Association of Southern Africa called the order "part of a wider crack-down" by President Robert Mugabe's

government on the judiciary, news media and opposition parties. Expelled were **Joseph Winter** of BBC and **Mercedes Sayagues** of Uruguay, a correspondent for South Africa's weekly *Mail & Guardian*. Before Winter left, unknown assailants attacked his house, and a judge ordered the government to stop harassing the correspondent, OPC member **Rachel L. Swarns** reported in *The New York Times*. In a statement, **Kurt Shillenger**, Correspondents Association chairman, said Zimbabwe faces "a period of accelerating decline" with presidential elections scheduled next year.

HONG KONG: OPC member **Kenneth Neil Cukier**, formerly European editor and London bureau chief of *Red Herring* magazine, is the new technology bureau chief at the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, based in Hong Kong. In a memo to *Red Herring's* staff, editor **Jason Pontin** praised Kenneth for his "outstanding service" in opening the UK bureau, overseeing international editorial strategy and his prolific output.

HONOLULU: **Richard Halloran**, a veteran correspondent in Asia, became editorial director of *The Honolulu Star Bulletin* in February, supervising its editorial and op-ed department and the Sunday "Insight" section of commentary and analysis, and writing for both sections. "You may well ask why, in my late middle age, I am eager to take on these tasks," Halloran, 70, said in an e-mail message to **Sam Jameson**, former *Los Angeles Times* correspondent in Tokyo. "I would remind you that after the Late Middle Ages came the Renaissance. To say that I am excited about being back in a newsroom would be the understatement of the week. Scratch me and I still bleed printer's ink." Over the years, Halloran was posted to Tokyo by three news organizations: McGraw-Hill World News in 1962, *The Washington Post* in 1966 and *The New York Times* in 1972. In recent years, he's been a freelance writer in Hawaii.

ITHACA, New York: In February, OPC member **Dan Morris**, an editor of McGraw-Hill engineering books, was elected to life membership in the Society

for Technical Communication. "A benefit of becoming a geriatric," he told the *Bulletin*. Morris, 79, who earned degrees in engineering and Asian studies at Cornell University, this winter attended a dinner at New York's Museum of Chinese in the Americas celebrating the New Year of the Snake: "Twelve fantastic courses from 7 to 10 p.m.," he reported.

LE TOUQUET, France: In 1990, retired British publisher **William Porter** founded the International Communications Forum to take trash out of the media and raise press standards. Nearly 2,000 media people in 63 countries have joined the organization, and Porter, who lives in this French town on the English Channel, travels the world with his message. In its winter issue, the London Press Club's journal defined the Forum goals: "Its aim is to raise standards in every part of the media, to boycott the cheap and nasty, to stop using sex and violence as marketing devices and to promote courageous and creative work which will transform, inspire and entertain the public."



William Porter

Porter, 79, is a member of the London Press Club. In Rome, Pope John Paul II told Porter he agrees fully with the Forum's aims. Porter said four friends encouraged him to start his campaign including **Rajmohan Gandhi**, an Indian journalist, and **Graham Turner**, a British investigative reporter.

LONDON: Our reciprocal London Press Club held its first exhibition at its new Fleet Street quarters late last year, displaying the work of political cartoonist **Victor Weisz**, known professionally as **Vicky**. Born in Berlin in 1913, he became a sports and theater cartoonist on the anti-Hitler journal *12 Uhr Blatt* in 1929. After the Nazis took over the paper in 1933, Vicky left Germany and settled in England, where over the years he was a cartoonist with the *News Chronicle*, *Daily Mirror*, *New Statesman*, *Daily Telegraph* and other publications. In 1960, Granada TV voted him cartoonist of the year. Suffering depression, he committed suicide in 1966.

LOS ANGELES: In January, **Mark Scott** announced an agreement to make

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a motion picture based on the book he wrote with **Ann Stringer** about her experiences as a World War II corre-



Ann Stringer

spondent in Europe, "Bravo, Amerikan-ski! and Other Stories from World War II" (January *Bulletin*). "Ann was a modern day heroine whose courage and daring were bested only by her excellence as a war correspondent," film producer **Suzanne Marcus-Fletcher** said. "Hers was a life of immense passion, drama, one which gives us rare insight into the casualties of war as seen from both sides of the Atlantic."

In her 1988 book "Women of the World: The Great Foreign Correspondents" [Boston: Houghton Mifflin], OPC member **Julia Edwards**, who died about a year and a half ago, wrote: "Ann Stringer could have played the heroine of a war movie. She was tall and willowy with a lovely figure and long chestnut hair flowing free. Soft-spoken and gentle, she evoked the protective instincts of the men."

Stringer accompanied U.S. troops on their drive into Nazi Germany, was the first reporter to enter the liberated Nordhausen concentration camp and scored a scoop in reporting the linkup of U.S. and Soviet troops at the Elbe River in April 1945.

During drinks at the Jan. 31 OPC reception before **Roger Cohen** of *The New York Times* spoke about Germany, past OPC president and former Timesman **Jack Raymond** chatted about his long friendship with Stringer. The January *OPC Bulletin* item on the Stringer book was written as if she were still living, and Jack wondered about that. "People" telephoned author Scott in California, and he said Stringer died in 1990 at age 72 following a series of strokes and a heart condition.

MANILA: On the same day George W. Bush followed his father into the White House, the daughter of a former Philippine president, Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, became president of the Philippines. She replaced Joseph Estrada, 63, who was forced from office amid corruption charges. "I think

we are the two freshest faces in the presidential ranks in the world," Bush, 54, told Arroyo, 53, according to a transcript of their 10-minute telephone conversation released by the presidential office in Manila. For reporters who covered the 1961-1965 administration of Gloria's father, President Diosdado Macapagal, memories flooded back.

The late **Mims Thomason**, then UPI president, interviewed Diosdado Macapagal in Manila's Malacañang Presidential Palace. Mims was accompanied by Manila news editor **Don C. Becker**, who went on to become a Knight-Ridder newspaper publisher, and Manila bureau manager, OPC member **Al Kaff**. While waiting for Macapagal to see him, Thomason ducked into a rest room. Minutes passed that seemed like hours, and the time set for the interview drew near. Finally Thomason left the rest room, explaining that when he flushed the presidential toilet it continued running until it overflowed on the floor: "I rolled up my sleeves and worked on that damn toilet until the water stopped."

Several years later in the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Thomason was interviewing Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato when he said, slightly embarrassed, "Excuse me, Mr. Prime Minister, but I have to go to the toilet." Sato laughed and replied through an interpreter, "Don't worry. The same thing happened to me during a state dinner in the White House."

MEXICO CITY: In June 1999, two gunmen fired on a minivan leaving a parking lot near TV Azteca studio, wounding TV journalist **Jorge Gil** and killing TV comedian **Francisco (Paco) Stanley** and a bystander. Six people charged with the murders were cleared by a judge in January. Police and prosecutors developed a complicated conspiracy theory, charging that a plot to gain control of Stanley's show was carried out by two performers on the comedy show, a drug dealer, the comedian's chauffeur, his bodyguard and the alleged shooter. They were released after 16 months in jail when the pivotal witness, a jail house informer who turned out to be mentally unstable, recanted his testimony. The

case "showed how the lack of the rule of law continues to pervade Mexico," **Tim Weiner** of *The New York Times* reported.

MT. ELIZA, Australia: Journalist and author **Denis Warner** reports that his house has been restored after falling trees crashed into it (December *Bulletin*). "The Warner house, I'm happy to report, has now been completely restored, the offending trees removed and all will be safe for [Robert] Miller when he makes his welcome appearance," Warner said in a January note to the *Bulletin*. Miller, 85, and Warner, 83, have been friends since they were World War II correspondents in the Pacific. Warner, who reported from Asia for British, Australian and U.S. publications for more than 30 years, winning OPC citations in 1956 and 1958, and his wife, author **Peggy Warner**, escaped injury when trees interrupted their day.

MOSCOW: The Moscow beat has changed dramatically since the end of the Soviet Union, reports OPC member **Tom Kent**, AP's Moscow bureau chief in the early 1990s. The handful of Soviet citizens who worked for the news agency could do no reporting and were restricted largely to inside jobs, Kent, now AP's deputy managing editor, was quoted in the Fall/Winter issue of the magazine *AP World*. Now AP reporter **Vladimir Isachenkov**, a Russian, covers the Kremlin. "I joined AP in the fall of 1991 just as the Soviet Union was breaking up," Isachenkov said. "The absence of political controls and the freedom to report what was really happening was great."

From a small listening post, the Moscow bureau has been transformed into one of AP's largest bureaus, staffed by about 50 news, photo and administrative people. Satellite bureaus operate in Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia, mostly staffed by **Vladimir Isachenkov** Russians, plus a network of local stringers. "AP news staffers now travel freely around the ex-Soviet republics to cover breaking news and do in-depth stories," Moscow bureau chief **Barry Renfrew** wrote in the magazine. "In the Soviet era, correspondents had to get government clearance and trips could be vetoed without reason. Many cities and



Gloria Macapagal Arroyo



Vladimir Isachenkov

regions were permanently off limits to Westerners."

But Russia's secret police still watch reporters. "Sometimes I get a call to attend an early morning meeting at their office," **Marina Babkina**, AP correspondent in Belarus, said. "Other times they show up at my home without warning. It's always very polite, very formal. They ask why an attractive lady spends her time working against the interests of her government by working for the Western press. I thank them for their concern and go back to work." Since 1993, two Russian AP journalists have been killed: photographer **Andre Soloviev**, killed in 1993 during fighting in Abkhazia, and cameraman **Farkhad Kerimov**, killed in the Chechnya war in 1995.

NEW YORK: Spending a lifetime career with one organization is a thing of the past, **William J. Holstein**, president of the OPC Foundation and a past OPC president, once told the "People" column. Bill, 49, underscored his point Feb. 26 when he left *U.S. News & World Report*, where he was a senior writer, to become editor-at-large for *Business 2.0*, a bi-weekly magazine with a circulation of 350,000. Holstein's career includes 10 years with UPI in the U.S., Hong Kong and China; 11 years with *Business Week*; and four and a half years with *U.S. News*. **Russ Mitchell**, *Business 2.0's* editor who worked with Holstein at *Business Week*



and *U.S. News*, commented: "Bill is an amazing journalist and his decision to move to *Business 2.0* is strong demonstration of the magazine's dedication to high-quality business coverage, and its intention to continue hiring the best business journalists in the field." *Business 2.0* is published in San Francisco with international editions in Germany, Israel, South Africa, South Korea and the United Kingdom. Bill is based in the magazine's New York City bureau, located on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street.

◆
OPC member **Ruth Gruber's** adventures in escorting Jewish refugees from Italy to the United States during World War II was told in a February television drama, "Haven," broadcast nationally by CBS. The two-part miniseries was based



Ruth Gruber



Natasha Richardson

on two of Gruber's recently re-published books: "Haven: The Unknown Story of 1000 World War II Refugees" [New York: Three Rivers Press] (December 1999 *Bulletin*), and "Ahead of Time: My Early Years as a Foreign Correspondent" [New York: Carrol & Graf] that includes her childhood in Brooklyn and her graduate student years in Germany when Nazism was on the rise. Gruber, now 89, is portrayed in the mini-series by **Natasha Richardson**.

In a secret 1944 mission ordered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gruber, who speaks five languages, was in charge of 982 Jewish refugees while they sailed on a U.S. troop ship from Italy through Nazi-infested waters to New York. While Gruber attempted to help them adjust to American life, the refugees were held in military barracks at Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York. The fort's high fences, armed guards and searchlights reminded them of Germany's concentration camps. Reviewing the TV drama in *The New York Times*, **Caryn James** wrote: "'Haven' is best when it dares to move into territory it can claim as its own, like the resentment of the Jews among American soldiers on the ship and even the tensions that erupt between Jews from different parts of Europe."

Gruber was pleased with the CBS production. "They did a beautiful job, and they kept the integrity of the story line," she told the *Bulletin*. "They took some liberties with the story, but what the heck." Ruth watched the first segment with the son and daughter of Abraham Tauber, a Red Cross worker who helped her escort the refugees to the United States.

Author of 15 books, Gruber was a correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*. She was the only reporter to cover the journey of a ship holding 4,500 Jewish refugees bound for Israel in 1947 in defiance of the British blockade of Palestine, a story she recounted in "Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation" [New York: Times Books].

◆
Work of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee is drawing the attention of other organizations. In a January fax, **Marilyn Greene**, executive director of the World Press Freedom Committee, told our committee's Co-Chair **Norman Schorr**: "You at OPC do a fantastic job of staying on top of press freedom violations, and protesting them. I am happy to provide any help I can in this."

◆
Paul Maidment, founding editor of FT.com, web site of the *Financial Times* in London, is the new editor of Forbes.com and executive editor of *Forbes* magazine.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: A long letter to the editor arrived via e-mail at the English-language *Frontier Post*. Letters editor **Munawwar Mohsin**, 40, read the title, "Why Muslims Hate Jews," and marked the letter for publication without reading it through. To Mohsin, the title suggested the letter would be negative only to Jews. But when he read the full letter in the paper's Jan. 29 issue, he was appalled. The letter portrayed Prophet Muhammad as a liar, murderer, anti-Semite, Nazi and male chauvinist with a formidable libido. Reaction was swift. A mob set fire to *The Frontier Post's* printing press, authorities closed the paper, and Mohsin and six of his colleagues were arrested, charged with blasphemy, which can carry the death sentence in this Muslim nation. In February, **Barry Bearak** of *The New York Times* interviewed Mohsin in jail, and the editor blamed his plight on his heroin addiction: "I was craving that night. I'm only a human being. I make errors. And think of the conditions I was working under."

SANA, Yemen: The story literally fell into the lap of a Reuters correspondent. A Yemen Airways plane carrying Barbara Bodine, U.S. ambassador to Yemen, and 90 other people was hijacked Jan. 23 by an armed man who said he wanted to show support for Saddam Hussein. The Arabic-speaking hijacker was overpowered by the crew when the plane reached neighboring Djibouti in northeast Africa. In a detailed dispatch, Reuters correspondent **Mohammed Sudam** described the Arabic-speaking hijacker, quoted his threats and the pilot's instructions in English to evacuate the plane when it

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landed, safe escape of the passengers down emergency chutes, the crew's fight with the armed-hijacker and the pilot's report, "The hijacker fired one bullet, slightly injuring a flight engineer in the left arm." In his dispatch, Sudam mentioned that "a Reuters correspondent was on the flight." Sana-based Sudam was that correspondent.

SANTIAGO, Chile: Online newspapers that primarily carry news, information and opinion now are eligible for membership in the Inter American Press Association. IAPA President **Danilo Arbilla**, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Búsqueda*, Montevideo, Uruguay, said Internet newspapers "need to be defended against any attempt to curtail freedom of expression." An IAPA resolution adopted last October declared that "to close any printing press or online newspaper or make it unusable is harmful to culture and democracy."



Danilo Arbilla

TAIPEI: Russell Flannery, who has been reporting from Taiwan for more than 10 years, is joining *Forbes Global* as an associate editor covering Asia, reports OPC member **Justin Doebele**, the magazine's senior editor in Singapore. Over the years, Flannery, who will be based in Hong Kong, reported from Taiwan for Asiawise, an online business news service; *Asian Wall Street Journal*; and Dow Jones Newswire; and from Taipei and Shanghai for Bloomberg News.

TOKYO: Andy Adams, who founded and published *Sumo World* magazine for 27 years, left Tokyo last year after 40 years in Japan and settled in San Diego (October *Bulletin*). A new member of the OPC, Adams, who continues as publisher and editor of *Sumo World* Feature Service, handed the running of *Sumo World* to



Clyde Newton

Clyde Newton, who has written for the English-language publication since 1979 while its circulation expanded to more

than 50 countries. Newton, who was born in New Zealand but grew up in Japan, is a new member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

Other new faces in the Club include **Martin Delgad**, London *Evening Standard*, formerly a correspondent in Germany and Eastern Europe for *The European*; **Naomichi Fujimoto**, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, formerly reporting from New Delhi, Beirut, Cairo, Rome, New York and Washington; **Martin Koelling**, *Financial Times Deutschland*, German edition of the *FT*; **Cynthia Sekiguchi**, Hong Kong's *Asian Financial Intelligence*; **Daniel Moss**, Bloomberg News, who as a high school student developed an interest in the world outside Canberra, Australia, while clipping international newspapers for local colleges and later was based with Bloomberg in Sydney, Kuala Lumpur and Washington; **Kohei Okamura**, Nikkei BP Soft Press, who was based in Australia as correspondent for Japan's economic daily, *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, 1984-1987; **Tomohiko Taniguchi**, *Nikkei Business* and its former bureau chief in London, where he was honorary treasurer of the Foreign Press Association; and **Yasushi Tomiyama**, Jiji Press, who reported for the business news service in Washington, 1977-1981 and 1995-1999, and Bangkok, 1985-1990, where he was first vice president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand.

In September 1999, the Foreign Correspondents' Club invited three members of Japan's parliament to a nationally-televised debate. A week before the luncheon program, police officer **Kazuhiro Abe** visited the club to check security. **Maki Hatakenaka**, the Club's front desk chief, met and escorted Abe while he inspected the premises. "The officer for sure was inspecting something—or somebody to be precise—other than the Club premises," past Club president **Naoaki Usui** wrote in *No. 1 Shimbun*, the Club's journal. This January, Hatakenaka and Abe were married and honeymooned in France.



Maki Hatakenaka

VIENNA, Virginia: Boyd Lewis says that whenever he is mentioned in the

Bulletin he gets letters from all over. Lewis, 95, covered World War II in Europe for United Press and spent the rest of his career with the wire service and a related company.

WASHINGTON: Visiting Tokyo late last year, OPC member **Arnaud de Borchgrave** spoke at a Foreign Correspondents' Club luncheon, spicing his remarks with humor and views on media in the 21st century:

¶ "Washington is a bilingual city, where truth is the second language."

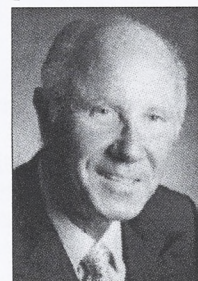
¶ "Homo Sapiens into Homo Connexus [through the Internet]."

¶ "The meteoric capacity to produce communicated news and information is affecting every area of our national security from the way we govern ourselves to the way we fight wars, and the way that transnational criminal organizations increase in size, scope and power."

¶ "Our understanding has become less due to the dumbing down of the media which has led to the dumbing down of America. A journalist's duty is to take what is important and make it interesting so that someone will want to read it."

¶ "Anyone with a modem can gather almost as much intelligence as the CIA and access as much knowledge as resides in the Library of Congress."

DeBorchgrave, who as president and CEO oversaw UPI's conversion into an Internet service, stepped down in December and now is the news agency's editor-at-large. "I am anxious to get back to writing and reporting, unencumbered by executive responsibilities," de Borchgrave said. Taking over the top desk was **Douglas D. M. Joo**, president of News World Communications, the Unification Church organization that owns UPI. Its news dispatches now are distributed to subscribers by E-mail. In a memo to the staff, de Borchgrave wrote: "UPI, which also stands for Unlimited Possibilities and Ideas, will consign the humdrum to oblivion, think out-of-the-box and look over-the-horizon. We must break the mold of conventional news agencies, create our own arena, and force the other to compete with UPI....AP and Reuters are focused on the past. They are slowly adapting to the 21st century, but it



Arnaud de Borchgrave

MORT KAYE STUDIOS, INC.

still takes them months or even years to make a decision and change. UPI is the PT Boat to the others' supertankers."

◆
Jackson Diehl, 44, a former *Washington Post* bureau chief in South America, Eastern Europe and Israel, became deputy editorial page editor of the newspaper Jan. 31. After reporting from abroad, Diehl returned to Washington in 1992 to become *The Post's* foreign editor. Later he was assistant managing editor for foreign news and then for national news. Describing his new assignment, Diehl said: "My mandate is to cover foreign affairs and help sharpen our coverage of issues on the op-ed page."

◆
Eileen O'Connor, a former CNN correspondent in Tokyo and Moscow, now is the network's national correspondent in Washington. Before moving to her new desk in February, she was CNN's medical correspondent and earlier its White House correspondent.

◆
Up to 12 newspaper editors and broadcast producers will be selected by the Pew Fellowships in International Journalism for a 12-day fact-finding trip to Brazil in June. "In an era of globalization, Brazil is an outstanding example of a country where many of the issues that make globalization controversial are at play," OPC member **John Schidlovsky**, Pew Fellowship director, said. He listed these challenges in Brazil: "huge income gaps" between rich and poor, environmental concerns, a "unique effort to treat AIDs," and public health, human rights and social issues. Pew Fellowships will pay all expenses from New York, although participants can choose to pay their own expenses, estimated at \$3,000 for travel, meals and hotels. The Pew Fellowship program is based at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Deadline to apply for the June 16-28 trip is May 4. For application forms, telephone Schidlovsky at (202) 663-7763 or e-mail to jschidlovsky@mail.jhuwash.jhu.edu

◆
OPC member **Elias P. Demetracopoulos**, pops up several times in **Christopher Hitchens** article, "The Case Against Henry Kissinger: Crimes Against Humanity," in the March issue of *Harper's*. The article reports how Demetracopoulos lobbied against the mil-

itary dictatorship that ruled Greece 1967-1974, and the troubles he faced: "[There was] a plan to kidnap and murder Elias P. Demetracopoulos, a distinguished Greek journalist with an unexampled record of opposition to the dictatorship that disfigured his homeland between 1967 and 1974. In the course of those years, he made his home in Washington, D.C., supporting himself as a consultant to a respected Wall Street firm. Innumerable senators, congressmen, Hill staffers, diplomats, and reporters have testified to the extraordinary one-man campaign of lobbying and information that he waged against the military gangsters who had usurped power in Athens. Since that same junta enjoyed the sympathy of powerful interests in Washington, Demetracopoulos was compelled to combat on two fronts, and he made some influential enemies."

◆
After a year-long investigation, the U.S. Army has acknowledged that American soldiers shot and killed unarmed Korean civilians near No Gun Ri village in the early days of the Korean War. In a 323-page report, the Army said the shootings in July 1950 happened because GIs feared that North Korean soldiers were disguised as civilian refugees. Veterans interviewed by the Army said they did not receive orders to fire on the civilians.

In 1999 after AP filed a series of articles on No Gun Ri, Pentagon and South Korean military officials launched separate investigations. AP's report won OPC and George Polk Awards and a Pulitzer Prize.

"We have determined that U.S. soldiers killed or injured an unconfirmed number of Korean refugees," U.S. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen told a news conference in January when the report was released. South Korea said 248 civilians were killed, wounded or missing, but the United States said the number was lower.

Last year in *U.S. News & World Report*, where he is a senior writer, OPC member **Joseph Galloway** questioned the AP report (June 2000 *Bulletin*). Galloway said his search of military records showed that three of the soldiers quoted by AP were not at No Gun Ri. One of those soldiers later admitted he was not there. After the Army report was issued, Galloway wrote in *U.S. News* "that what happened at No Gun Ri was not a war crime but a tragedy of war, and

there is no credible evidence that orders were ever issued to shoot at unarmed civilians."

IN MEMORY

Herbert Kupferberg, 83, president of the OPC 1986-1988 and a longtime board member, died Feb. 22 in a New York City hospital. Herb and his wife, **Barbara**, became ill after eating out on New Year's Eve. She recovered, but he remained in the hospital until his death, apparently from liver failure.



Herb was a senior **Herbert Kupferberg** editor at *Parade Magazine*, and his column, "What's Up This Week," continued through his illness. Four days before his death, *Parade*, a weekly Sunday supplement distributed by newspapers throughout the country, published his column reviewing "A War To Be Won," a political, economic, diplomatic and combat history of World War II.

Larry Smith, also a past OPC president who retired recently as *Parade's* managing editor, was in the Caribbean when Kupferberg died. Larry faxed a tribute to Kupferberg that **John Corporon**, another past OPC president, read at the funeral: "Words were in his blood, from his beginnings on a newspaper in Rhode Island to the *New York Herald Tribune*, which he loved so well, and on to the last 35 years or more at *Parade Magazine*. Along the way, he wrote books and he read books with appreciation and discernment, and he wrote eloquently about these books. He was worried when I left *Parade*, saying 'Who am I going to talk to about books?' and he gave me a signed copy of 'A Shropshire Lad' by A.E. Housman because we shared I think a special appreciation of Housman....Herb was a great lover of music and a great admirer of Mendelssohn in particular. And he himself was a great human being." Others from the OPC who attended the funeral were *Parade* Publisher and CEO, **Walter Anderson**, **Fran Carpentier** among other *Parade* colleagues, **Norman Schorr** and **Sonya Fry**, OPC Executive Director.

Before joining *Parade*, Kupferberg worked 23 years for the *New York Herald Tribune* as an editorial writer,

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critic, lively arts editor and one year in Paris with the paper's European edition, 1946-1947. He wrote 13 books including "Those Fabulous Philadelphians: The Life and Times of a Great Orchestra," his first, and "The Mendelssohns: Three Generations of Genius." **Barbara Kupferberg** told the *Bulletin* that her husband's books, "Amadeus: A Mozart Mosaic" and "Basically Bach," were among his writings that gave him the greatest pleasure. "He tried to humanize those composers and include in the books facts that many people didn't know," she said.

Herb joined the OPC in 1947 and for many years co-chaired the Club's music committee.

◆
Tom Lea, 93, an illustrator for *Life* during World War II, died Jan. 29 in El Paso, Texas. During the war, he traveled more than 100,000 miles for the magazine and painted the sinking of the U.S. aircraft carrier Wasp in the North Atlantic, U.S. Marine landing on Peleliu, portraits of Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek in China, and other wartime scenes and people. Lea wrote several books including "The Brave Bulls" and "The Wonderful Country," both made into movies in the 1950s. In his speech last August accepting the Republican nomination for president, George W. Bush quoted from Lea's book, "A Picture Gallery," and said the artist "captured the way I feel about our great land" (October *Bulletin*).

◆
Charles F. Kiley Sr., 87, a U.S. Army reporter for *Stars & Stripes* in Europe during World War II, died Jan. 27 at his home in Westfield, New Jersey. As a pool reporter, Kiley covered the 1945 German surrenders at Rheims, France, and in Berlin. He also worked two decades for *The New York Herald Tribune* and was editor in chief of *The New York Law Journal* from 1967 until retiring in 1989.

◆
Samuel H. Day Jr., 74, a former U.S. Army journalist who later served two terms in federal prison for entering military installations to protest nuclear weapons, died of a stroke Jan. 26. After working as a reporter in Germany for *Stars & Stripes* during the Korean War, Day, son of a U.S. diplomat, joined AP in San Francisco and later worked on sever-

al Idaho newspapers. Day led *The Progressive*, a magazine dealing with peace and social justice, in a First Amendment court battle over an article that included sketches and details on



Samuel H. Day how a nuclear bomb worked. A federal judge granted an order prohibiting publication of the article on grounds it contained classified information, but the U.S. Court of Appeals lifted the injunction and the article was published in 1979. In demonstrations against nuclear proliferation and arms build-up, Day entered missile silo enclosures in 1988 and distributed anti-war-crimes pamphlets at a military installation in 1991, the day after the Persian Gulf War started. He served prison terms after each incident. During his second imprisonment, he suffered a stroke that left him legally blind. At the time of his death, Day lived in Madison, Wisconsin.

◆
Leigh Green, 47, who reported from 25 countries in Europe and Central America for NBC News and CNN, died of cancer Jan. 26 in Atlanta, Georgia. About a year before his death, Green learned that his cancer was incurable. Last September, he hosted "Final Choices," a Georgia Public Television series about preparing for death.

◆
Taiwan-born **Louise Ran Costich**, 48, Washington correspondent for Taipei's daily *China Times*, died of cancer Jan. 17 at a northern Virginia hospice. Battling cancer since 1994, she continued writing, and her last news article was published a few days before her death. She wrote a book about treatment of her breast and ovarian cancers with chemotherapy, bone marrow transplants, other surgery and finally alternative medicine. Her book was excerpted in the February 2000 issue of the *Reader's Digest* Chinese edition, and the article later was published in the magazine's English, German, Dutch and French editions. Louise Ran joined *China Times* in Taipei in 1975 and two years later moved to Washington, where she covered the U.S. government. She appeared on CNN, reported for several Asian broadcast networks and publications, and wrote a book on U.S.-Taiwan trade, "A Decade of Trade Storms."

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

examines his countrymen in "The English: A Portrait of a People" [Woodstock, New York: The Overlook Press], already a best seller in England. In a *New York Times Review*, **Evelyn Toynton**, a novelist who lives in London, asks, "Will there always be an England? If we mean by that question, will the gentleman's code of hono(u)r, unabashed eccentricity, the stiff upper lip and a sort of moral imperviousness to physical discomfort survive into the 21st century, the answer would have to be, 'Not bloody likely.' What with the homogenizing effects of globalization on the one hand and the loss of their empire on the other, the English have become more and more like other people and less like what used to be themselves....The English have exchanged their world dominance for a fashion sense, some decent restaurants and a new colony on Broadway."

• Photographer **Ron Haviv** knew little about the Balkans in 1991 when at age 26 he set out for Slovenia where war was brewing. A collection of his war photos are published in "Blood and Honey: A Balkan War Journal" [TV Books/ Umbrage Editions]. *The New York Times* called his book "a pictorial guide to hell." A 1987 New York University journalism graduate, Haviv took up photography as a hobby in his senior year. Before his work in the Balkans, he was a photographer for the *New York City Tribune*, the now defunct Unification Church newspaper, and Agence France-Presse. In 1989, his photo of a vice presidential candidate being beaten by paramilitary thugs in

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Kicking a dying woman—Ron Haviv photo

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 10)

Panama made the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report*. Haviv learned a lesson in Bosnia. Quoted by **John Kifner** in *The New York Times*, Haviv said: "I thought these pictures would provide a final push, so the world would stop this [such as a Serb militiaman kicking a dying Muslim woman in the head]. But obviously nothing happened.... I went from this very idealistic view of the power of photography to feeling it was just really frustrating.... Nobody was really listening. There were just halfhearted efforts to solve the situation. Then Kosovo, and once again the waffling that led to so many deaths. And the victims became aggressors, and the aggressors become victims, and it goes around and around." Some of Haviv's photos are scheduled to go on permanent exhibition at the war museum in Sarajevo.

• **David Douglas Duncan**, an American photographer for *Life* magazine for 10 years, famed for his Korean War combat pictures, and **Henri Cartier-Bresson**, the French documentary and portrait photographer who helped found Magnum photo agency in 1947, live in France and were friends for years. No more. Cartier-Bresson is furious over "Faceless" [Paris: Éditions Assouline], a 48-page book of 37 close-up photos Duncan made of Cartier-Bresson. Famous for hating to be photographed himself, Cartier-Bresson tried unsuccessfully to block the book's publication in the United States. "It's a bad book," Cartier-Bresson told OPC member **Alan Riding**, *The New York Times* European cultural correspondent. "Absolutely uninteresting, mediocre, a series of snapshots. It's just what comes out of a camera when a camera works. There's not one portrait here. There's no eye behind this. He's not capable of making a choice. He used all the film."

But Duncan, one of the first news photographers to use 35-mm cameras rather than the bulky Speed Graphic, defended his work when Riding interviewed him: "I think of the book as a homage to the world's greatest photographer. I didn't shoot it in any confrontational way. I did it with great respect. The crime would have been if it had been buried. Imagine if there were pictures of van Gogh in Arles. It would have been a terrible loss not to publish this. I shot it with affection, respect and responsibility."



Contact sheet with images of Henri Cartier-Bresson taken by David Douglas Duncan

The photos were made last year when the two photographers accompanied by Duncan's wife and Cartier-Bresson's assistant were seated in the garden cafe at the Picasso Museum in Paris. Using his wife's old Pentax and a roll of black-and-white film borrowed from Cartier-Bresson's assistant, Duncan, now 85, took the close-up photos of the French photographer, now 92. "I just framed them and shot away," Duncan told Riding. "It took less than five minutes. Near the end, Henri took his own camera and began taking pictures of me. At the time, I wasn't thinking of publication. I just took them. Only when I developed them, did I think, 'This is a historic document.'"

• "Eikon: The Story of a Lost Miracle" is a novel based on history, the story of art treasures stolen first by Nazis and then by Russian and American soldiers. Author is OPC member **David L. Eynon**, who worked for *European Stars & Stripes*, 1945-1946, and later contributed to *The New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Look* and *Esquire*.

MIDDLE EAST

• **Jeff Wheelwright**, who covered the Persian Gulf War, examines the Gulf War syndrome in "The Irritable Heart: The Medical Mystery of the Gulf War" [New York: Norton]. Gulf War veterans have complained that they suffer joint

and muscle pain, headaches, dizziness, memory loss, insomnia, diarrhea, fatigue and difficult breathing. "Competing theories emerged, including mysterious biological contagions and exposures to smoke, oil, depleted uranium or Iraqi nerve gas," **Beryl Lieff Benderly**, a board member of the National Association of Science Writers, commented in reviewing the book in *The New York Times*. "No theory won a widespread medical consensus.... That such a condition should emerge from Desert Shield and Storm ought to be no surprise, Wheelwright notes. As far back as the Civil War, veterans have contracted mysterious, previously unknown ailments that in many way resembled the symptoms that came home from the Gulf."

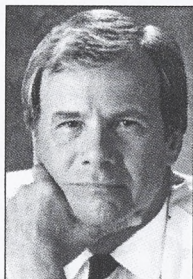
• **James Buchan** is a former foreign correspondent for *The Financial Times* who has turned to writing fiction. Reviewing Buchan's sixth novel, "The Persian Bride" [New York: Houghton Mifflin], **Jonathan Mahler**, a contributing writer at *Talk* magazine, commented in *The New York Times*: "Many newspapermen dream of writing novels; most fail, while a lucky few have managed to translate their ability to tell a story with clear, simple prose into bona fide beach reads. But with this melancholy book, Buchan reveals both the ambition and heart of a natural novelist."

Spanning the last quarter of a century in Iran, "The Persian Bride" tells the story of Englishman John Pitt, who in 1974 hitchhikes to Isfahan, capital of Persia from the 16th into the 18th century, and becomes a language school teacher. He falls in love with one of his students, the teenage daughter of a general in the Shah's airforce, who would never approve the couple's marriage. Helped by the local Soviet consul general, Pitt and the girl flee the city, marry secretly and live for more than a year in an abandoned Soviet residence on the Persian Gulf. When they try to leave Iran, Pitt is separated from his wife and their child. He then wanders through Iran looking for them, is captured and tortured by the Shah's men and later by the mullahs, and finally wanders through Afghanistan and Kashmir to the front lines of the Iran-Iraq war. At the end of his travels, Pitt says: "The effect of the revolution has not been to revive religion in Iran but to make it hateful to all but the portion of the population that has a material interest in it, that gets its bread and water from the mosque."

New Books

GLOBAL

• Born in South Dakota in 1940, OPC member **Tom Brokaw** was 5 years old when World War II ended. But he has become a chronicler of the men and women who fought in that war and worked in defense industries. Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" [New York:



Tom Brokaw

Random House] has been on *The New York Times* best-seller list every week since its 1998 publication, by Feb. 25 a run of 108 weeks. More than 5 million hardcover copies of that book and his next one, "The Greatest Generation Speaks," are in print. Now the NBC Nightly News anchor has written a third volume containing more wartime recollections from thousands of people who wrote to him, "An Album of Memories," scheduled for May release. Reporting on the new book, **Paul D. Colford** of New York's *Daily News* wrote: "Home front heroes recall the war's impact on Main Street. Veterans describe the war they fought, including a teenage soldier whose old letter tells firsthand of the gruesome Bataan Death March."

• Photojournalist **Deborah Copaken Kogan** spent four years reporting from several countries including Afghanistan, Soviet Union and Romania, where in an orphanage named the Hospital for Unrecoverables she found emaciated children tied to their beds and the blue corpse of a 6-year-old in a bathroom.

She describes her adventures in "Shutterbabe" [New York: Villard]. In a *Washington Post* review, freelance writer **Liza Featherstone** criticized what she called the book's "regrettable format: Chapters are named after Kogan's lovers." But Featherstone continued: "I found much to like in 'Shutterbabe,' most of all Kogan's prose, which is appealingly wry, copiously descriptive and often witty. The opening scene of the book, for instance, in which Kogan has a tampon emergency while crammed into the back of a truckful of Afghan freedom fighters, is masterfully funny." The book ends with a chapter on the author's married life with two children in Manhattan's Upper West Side. The reviewer commented: "This part of the book is boring. Not only does it lack the adventure, danger, horror and page-turning adrenaline of the rest of the book, but also Kogan herself, cured of her perversity, restlessness and alienation, seems to have become a less intriguing person."

AFRICA

• In "War of Words: Memoir of a South African Journalist" [New York: Seven Stories Press], **Benjamin Pogrund**, longtime deputy editor of Johannesburg's *Rand Daily Mail*, writes: "The scope of my beat, covering black existence, grew apace, spreading from the Johannesburg area to the rural 'reserves' for blacks, plus the three territories then under British colonial rule that adjoined South Africa." While other reporters covered garden parties or labor rallies, Pogrund's beat involved 70 percent of South Africa's population plus all of present-day Botswana, Lesotho and

Swaziland. Reviewing the book, OPC member **Donald G. McNeil Jr.**, a *New York Times* correspondent based in Paris, wrote: "No one thought him overburdened. Rather, they resented the way his work changed the paper, which had routinely avoided using pictures of black people unless they were rioting and which did not print the names of car accident victims unless they were white."

During his four years reporting from South Africa, McNeil never heard of Pogrund. "I see now that this was another of my failings as a student of history," McNeil commented. "Pogrund was a witness to many important events and knew almost all the crucial players in South African history from 1958 to the present....This is a strange memoir for a journalist, because much of it is devoted to stories he did *not* write." Pogrund was restricted, McNeil observed, "because the country was so confused for so long, with the constant police raids, the newsroom spies, the tapped telephones, the overlapping press laws, the conflicting court rulings, that one made odd judgment calls. Sometimes politics did it....Other times, fears for his sources prevailed." And Pogrund avoided reporting some stories because of friendships or deals with his sources, *The Times* reviewer wrote. The *Rand Daily Mail* folded in 1985, and Pogrund now runs a center in Jerusalem for Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

EUROPE

• BBC's **Jeremy Paxman**, one of Britain's leading broadcast journalists, (Continued on Page 10)

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